

PROD 15-1
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CIA/R: C/S 9-10
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D/CG/E Comments on Draft NIS-22, Sect. 61

25X1A9a

1. [REDACTED] of D/CG/E has reviewed the subject NIS section and discussed it with [REDACTED]. The following comments are forwarded in 25X1A9a pursuant to this discussion.

2. (Page 61-15, lines 3-9)

The main mountain range in Rumania is that of the Carpathians. This is commonly divided into two main segments--the Moldavian Carpathians and the Transylvanian Alps. Although individual ranges are discontinuous, together they form a continuous mountain chain across the country.

Sentence 1 (lines 3-5) can be interpreted as meaning that the Transylvanian Alps are part of the Moldavian Carpathian Mountains. The characterization of the Transylvanian Alps as "discontinuous low ridges" is also misleading since the highest mountain peaks in Rumania occur in the Alps and these ranges form a near-continuous mountain mass. The mountains do not extend southeastward to the northern border of the Danube River Valley but rather to the Danubian or Wallachian Plain.

3. (Page 61-15, line 19) The plains commonly range in elevation up to 900 feet.

4. (Page 61-15, line 30) Although parts of the Dobrujan Plateau are heavily dissected and, therefore, hilly in appearance, the area is generally referred to either as Dobruja or the Dobrujan Plateau. The latter is the term employed in Fig. 61-1, the map of Relief and Administrative Divisions. In northern Dobruja a maximum elevation of approximately 1400 feet is reached.

5. (Page 61-16, line 8) Again, Dobrujan Plateau would be preferable to Dobrujan Hills.

6. (Page 61-16, lines 8-11) The description of the lower course of the Danube is a little misleading. The course of the river has been deflected northward by the Dobruja rather than eastward by high lands. It is suggested that the sentence be revised somewhat as follows: In its lower course, the Danube flows northward along a broad marshy flood plain skirting the Dobrujan Plateau, and then eastward to the Black Sea forming an extensive swampy delta at its outlet.

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7. (Page 61-16, lines 15-18) The cart would appear to be before the horse. The following is suggested: Variations in climate in Rumania and to a lesser extent differentiation of soils and natural vegetation are closely related to the complex topography. In this sense, the topography has strongly influenced the type of farming that has developed.

8. (Page 61-16, line 19) Lowlands are not necessarily poorly drained. Suggest -- In poorly-drained lowlands and depressions marsh or swamp vegetation persists.

9. (Page 61-16, lines 19-20) Although it is true that field crops have largely replaced grass, etc., on the steppes, it might be preferable to substitute plains for steppes since steppe conditions are found on plains, plateaus and some valleys in Rumania. "Steppes, valleys and plateaus" are not mutually exclusive, in this case.

10. (Page 61-17, lines 1-3) These two sentences are not clear. As elevation and slope increase the cultivated land gives way to pasture and woodland (not necessarily coniferous forest). At the highest elevations, above the tree line, alpine meadows and barren rock predominate.

11. (Page 61-18, lines 1-7) As written, this paragraph appears inconsistent. It is first stated that Rumania has a markedly continental climate and then stated that it is a crossroad of climatic influences, without further explanation. Although the climate is dominantly continental, there are other important climatic influences. Suggest substituting the first paragraph under climate in the original version of NIS-22, Sect. 61, page 61-4.

12. (Page 61-18, lines 7-17) The substitution of the term air currents in place of low pressure cells or depressions throughout this paragraph may be an over simplification of terminology. One may assume from this that there is a steady current of air moving in from one direction only.

13. (Page 61-18, lines 12-13) Thunderstorms occur in this area only under certain circumstances with the passage of a depression--i.e. if the wind shifts to the north, and if an air mass of maritime origin follows the front. Suggest qualifying the statement -- Occasionally the passage of low pressure cells produce thunderstorms....

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14. (Page 61-18, lines 14-17) The depressions moving along a track from the Mediterranean and entering Rumania from the west or southwest bring some of southern Rumania's worst weather. Suggest adding -- ...from the west or southwest in spring and autumn frequently bringing moderate to heavy rains....

15. (Page 61-19, lines 1-2) The continental air mass and the Siberian high are not synonymous. The dry continental air mass produces a high-pressure cell called the Siberian high. Cold air moving from the high pressure area penetrates Rumania producing snow squalls. The Siberian high itself does not bring the snow.

16. (Page 61-23, line 9) Mean minimum or absolute minimum temperature of

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RR/CG/E: [REDACTED] :ec (12 Oct. '59)